

From the

Parents' National Educational Union

[Incorporated]

26, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

P. N. E. U.

JUBILEE GATHERING

AMBLESIDE. APRIL 17th - 23rd.

1936.

CMC 27p

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WILL tell you, Scholar, I have
heard a grave Divine say that
God has two dwellings: one in
Heaven; and the other in a meek
and thankful heart. Which Almighty
God grant to me, and to my honest
Scholar: and so you are welcome.

Isaak Walton

Parents' National Educational Union

JUBILEE GATHERING

Ambleside: April 17th - 23rd, 1936

Lady
Aberdeen



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p3cmc 270

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Essex
Ch. Church
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P4 cme 270

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JUNE 25, 1936

School Pioneer

British Teachers Honor Founder Of Parents' Educational Union

Spirit in The Christian Science Monitor

AMBLESIDE, Eng.—The work of to train teachers. The Parents' Union Schools, set on a plan also outlined by Miss Mason, seeking to enlist the co-operation of parents in maintaining children's work for education, were declared to have demonstrated amply the sound vision of their founder, by their success in many communities.

The meetings brought together for a week in this Lake District place of Westmorland, many teachers and children trained by the methods outlined by Miss Mason in her books and in the schools she set up here. These were the Parents' Union School for children and the House of Education, a training college for teachers of her methods.

Trails of Good Teacher

"The good teacher," said Miss Essex Cholmondeley, principal of the House of Education, speaking at an early session, "secures order, protects good work from interruption and gives the right impulse, the clear correction at the moment it is needed. The bad teacher has no eye, has no ear and has too much voice. But the strength of the teaching method for which we have to thank Miss Mason lies in its power to keep children's minds alert, unencumbered and able to learn."

Miss Mason's firm belief in the power of each person to get into touch with the thing he needs, to grow in relationship with it, gaining an insight and understanding, laboring on over hard places, finding delight in achievement—this hopeful belief transforms a teaching method into a way of learning.

Skilled in Helpfulness

"Give them opportunity and direction, and children will do the greater part of their own education, intellectual, esthetic and even moral, by reason of the wonderfully balanced desires, powers and affections which go to make up human nature."

"Is there any room left for a teacher?" Miss Cholmondeley asked, and declared that there emphatically was. "Someone is needed and that someone must be trained and skilled in helpfulness," she said. "Varied help is needed. Help in introductions and first contacts, companionship of mind, someone to discuss intricacies and compare finds. Wise rule is needed, help in keeping work up to the mark, both in study and in workmanship. The learner must write, tell, summarize, never failing to perform the act of knowing which makes knowledge his own."

"The teacher must encourage this power, and see that it never becomes superficial and worthless. According to the help which a child receives will be preserved his natural powers of attention and develop to the full the power to know and to use knowledge."

High Standards Vital

The importance of teaching a child to execute whatever task he undertakes as perfectly as possible was stressed by Mrs. Shelley, headmistress of the Manor House School, Milford, Ireland.

"The secret of this," Mrs. Shelley said, "is twofold. Never give a child a task entirely beyond him, and never accept as satisfactory what is easily in not his best. We often are slack in our demands from ourselves and from them, so that we unconsciously lower their whole moral outlook."

250 Children Attend

The opening meeting of the union was presided over by the Dowager Marchioness of Aberdeen, who, with the late Lord Aberdeen, had been for many years its joint president. She was made honorary president at this meeting, and was succeeded as president by Lord Alastair Graham.

About 250 children from all parts of Great Britain were present at the week's meeting. For the most of them it provided a first glimpse of the Lake District in which, for 50 years, Miss Mason lived and worked, and where she founded her college



MISS CHARLOTTE MASON
founder of Parents' Educational Union in England

Chairwoman at 79

The International Good Samaritan! That, says a corre-

spondent, is a new description he has heard applied to that remarkable woman, Isabel Marchioness of Aberdeen. She will preside over today's opening meeting of the Jubilee conference of the Parents' National Educational Union.

Though a national association, the conference would not be complete without a touch of the international spirit. This will be provided when letters from Abyssinian school children are read out. It is more than two score years since the Marchioness first presided over an international body—the International Council of Women.



Cumberland & Westmorland Herald

King's Street, Penrith.

25 APR 1936

Cutting from issue dated.....1936

AN AMBLESIDE EDUCATIONAL JUBILEE

AMBLESIDE has this week been celebrating the jubilee of the P.N.E.U. (Parents' National Educational Union), founded by the late Miss Charlotte Mason, a well-known Ambleside educationist, who founded the House of Education in that town in 1880. The jubilee, which was held in memory of her founder, took the form of a conference attended by educational experts from all over the country. Our pictures show:



(1) Miss Cholmondeley, Principal of the House of Education, Ambleside; Miss Hardcastle, House of Education; and Miss Gillis.



(2) Children of Fairfield Practising School, Ambleside, marching in procession to St. Mary's Church on Saturday where a service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. H. A. Thompson. Children from P.N.E.U. Schools all over the country walked to the church carrying banners.

Photos: Miss J. Muspratt, Swanage.

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 Teachers World
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TEACHERS WORLD AND SCHOOLMISTRESS, April 29, 1936.

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Parents National Educational Union

JUBILEE FESTIVAL From Fiji to Addis Ababa

AN ACCOUNT OF THE AMBLESIDE CONFERENCE



PROCESSION OF P.N.E.U. SCHOOL CHILDREN AT THE AMBLESIDE JUBILEE CONFERENCE. More than 200 pupils attended the festival.

SEVEN hundred parents, teachers and children have been assembled over this week-end at Ambleside for the Jubilee gatherings of the P.N.E.U. Seven hundred persons, and though two hundred and seventy of them are children, that only makes the crowds which throng the narrow cobble streets more exciting and excited. For the children are so patently enjoying themselves, and the grown-ups—though not of course so obviously—are drinking a deeper satisfaction from the fact of being assembled together in this place where lives the spirit of an educational ideal which has animated a great many of them since the days of their own childhood.

Biggest School in the World

Miss Charlotte Mason, who died in 1923, founded the P.N.E.U. in 1896. To-day the Parents' Union School numbers 30,000, surely the biggest school in the world, and it literally does cover the whole world. House of Education studies may be found to-day in Africa (South, East, West and Uganda), Australia, Canada, India, and Ceylon, New Zealand, U.S.A., and S. America, China, Hongkong, Jamaica, Egypt, Japan, Newfoundland, Sumatra, Madagascar, Malacca, Switzerland, Italy, Holland, Germany, France, Portugal and Rumania.

Among the parents and teachers attending the present conference are representatives from every British Dominion and hundreds of letters have been received from every part of the world, bringing photographs as well as good wishes. There have been letters from Japan, the Fiji Islands and Addis Ababa, just to mention three.

The Welcome Meeting

The welcome meeting on Friday evening began with the reading of a telegram from His Majesty the King in answer to a message of loyal greeting which had been dispatched earlier in the afternoon. The chair was taken by the Dowager Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair—surely one of the most picturesque of our public women of to-day. She spoke of her long connection with the P.N.E.U. and of that of the Hon. Mr. Franklin, who is its very active honorary secretary, and in recognition of whose work it is proposed to establish a fund for the assistance of students from the House of Education who later want to start schools of their own.

On Saturday morning there was a procession to the village church, the children carrying banners representative of some of the many schools run by the P.N.E.U. These include Overstone School, Northampton, St. Julian's School, Caravello, Portugal, and the new Irish School at Milford.

The day was what the Ambleside people call a "borrowed day," the official forecast for the whole country being, "snow and sleet," but the children with their banners walked to church in brilliant sunshine under the bluest of blue skies and with a background of snow-capped mountains making a scene more "Swiss" than what one ordinarily expects to see in England.

The text of the sermon was: "God gave us memories that we might have roses in December."

P.N.E.U. Methods

On Saturday morning Miss Cholmondeley, principal of the House of Education, read a paper called: "Teaching Methods in the P.U.S."—a "workaday title," she called it, and opened her address with a pretty figure of speech in which she clothed the Princess Knowledge in working clothes, "hardworn overall, thick gloves, ancient hat—frumpy clothes—frumpy title," and then showed her audience how really lovely were the results of the labour done in these working clothes. She spoke of the cultivation of mind to be measured not in "avoir du pois" so much as in "avoir d'esprit," and remarked that "a person at 50 years can weigh considerably less by 'avoir d'esprit' than he did at five years. This melancholy fact is not always due to emptiness of mind. Some things weigh light on the scales. Perhaps the mind at 50 is so well filled with preoccupations and entertainments and self-regard that no room is left for more rightful occupants. At five years a child knows his well-loved stories. . . . knows with an intense vivid knowledge which fills his mind. He bestows on them his absorbed attention and timeless cogitation. It is only the absorbed attention which can embrace and appropriate, and it is only certain things which can claim and win this quality of attention. Some thoughts and facts can command more polite interest. Polite interest is very common, it is also useful. It secures not knowledge, but information (that hallmark of the well-taught person). The tragedy is that those

whose education calls upon their polite interest and not upon their absorbed attention lose steadily in *avoir d'esprit*, though they gain the whole world. They are losers."

"Our Founder"

On Saturday evening the Director of the Parents' Union School, Miss Kitching, gave an address on "Our Founder, Miss Mason," and Lady Maureen Stanley, wife of the Minister for Education, took the chair. On Monday papers were read from two ex-students of the House of Education who are running very successful nursery schools, a new development of the work, the necessity for which, in these days of smaller families and smaller houses, is becoming daily more obvious.

On Monday evening the Hall at the House of Education was again packed to overflowing on the occasion of Professor de Selincourt's paper on Wordsworth's "Interpretation of Nature." At the opening of the meeting it was announced that Lord Alastair Graham (who was taking the chair) was to be the new president of the Union in succession to the Marchioness of Aberdeen who with the Marquis held a joint presidency lasting for nearly 50 years. Lady Aberdeen in a farewell message said that she had promised to remain as Honorary President of the Union.

On Tuesday Miss Hardcastle and Mrs. Shelley spoke on "Character Training" and Miss Pennelthorne gave an address called "The Great Recognition."

The Children's Programme

And all this time the children had been following a special programme of their own. One saw them setting off on geological expeditions, small boys of eight and nine armed with small hammers and looking as serious as any grown geologist. In the mornings, divided into their forms, they shared lessons with their hitherto unknown school fellows from all over the country. Grown-ups were rigorously excluded from the morning lessons (owing to lack of accommodation), but they much enjoyed the pipe playing on pipes made by the children themselves.

Then there was an afternoon when the children acted scenes from Shakespeare plays. The children from an elementary school in Gloucestershire were Mummies from the Midsummer Night's Dream; a head for Bottom presented some difficulties, but was eventually constructed from a round wire flower basket, with fourpennyworth of fur from a humble sale, two old tennis shoes, crêpe rubber ones which, gaping back to back, made a more realistic mouth than has ever been known.

On the last afternoon there was a children's party in the beautiful house and grounds of the House of Education, and the children carried away with them a card with these words:

"I will tell you, Scholars, I have heard a grave Divine say that God is in two dwellings: one in Heaven; and the other in a meek and thankful heart. Which Almighty God grant to me, and to my honest Scholar; and so you are welcome."—Isaac Walton.

"MASTERLY INACTIVITY"

Methods of Teaching The Very Young

On Monday morning Miss Harrison, a former student of the House of Education, gave an address on the value of the first steps in the Parents' National Educational Union school for educating children aged from five to six years who, she said, had eager, inquiring minds, thirsting for knowledge. Children, when having their lessons, should be allowed to talk of their work and what they saw. Their discipline came from interest in the things to be done. Children of that age learned more in proportion than in any other years of life, very powerful, fresh, and untried minds. Miss Harrison also addressed the session and gave her experiences with a class whose ages ranged from 5 to 11 years. The motto for playground teachers, she said, should be "masterly inactivity" and the place should be a "growing place" for persons.

At the evening meeting in the "Barn," Lord Alastair Graham presided. The Hon. Mrs. Franklin read a letter from the Hon. Mr. Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, apologising for her sudden departure. The letter continued: "I am sure the children will ever cherish the memory of this Ambleside conference. For me it has been a happy conclusion to the long Presidency which I shared with Lord Graham and this remains as hon. President and this has persuaded me to ask him to accept nomination as President (Applause)." The Hon. Mrs. Franklin, turning to Lord Graham, expressed gratitude and appreciation to him for having consented to accept the Presidency.

LORD GRAHAM AND THE P.N.E.U.

Lord Graham said he was very conscious of the honour which had been conferred upon him, but he felt very humble in following in the steps of that gracious and noble lady who had been his President for so many years. He was also conscious of the great tradition which had been built up in that place of education and the difficulty he would have in adequately fulfilling the position of President. He would like to look upon him as their humble servant for he felt he had accepted the Presidency merely in order to serve the P.N.E.U. As a parent, visiting Ambleside for the first time he would like to say how much he welcomed the opportunity of meeting in person so many of those who had during the last few years, been merely signatures and names. It afforded him great pleasure to take part in that great jubilee festival and it was a privilege to imbibe the atmosphere of that educational establishment which one could not get through the printed or written word. The influence which permeated the House of Education was passed on to those who came there for training. Parents, like himself, had watched with interest the gradual growth of their children under the P.N.E.U. system. He went on to speak of an incident which showed the indignity to which a parent might be subjected in the course of watching that growth of knowledge in his children. Some years ago his eldest son, having more or less mastered the rudiments of his writing, was seated amidst a piece of chalk, and anxious to display his recently acquired knowledge chalked up on newly painted farm buildings "Not fat, daddy" (Laughter).

Introducing Professor Ernest de Selincourt, who read an excellent paper on "Wordsworth's Interpretation of Nature," Lord Graham said (Prof. de Selincourt) was an authority on Wordsworth and the Lakeland poets. No English poet, said the President, had equalled Wordsworth in the appeal he made to all those who love the country and appreciated its beauties and glories. They were fortunate in having as their guide philosopher and friend such a distinguished man of letters as Prof. de Selincourt.

For a full hour Prof. de Selincourt, in a delightful paper on the great Lakeland poet, kept his audience in rapt attention. His address was interspersed with extracts from some of the poet's most famous works on the beauty of nature.

Yorkshire Post

Change Court, Albion Street, Leeds.

Cutting from issue dated.....21 APR 1936.....

Ambleside Conference

An address on "Wordsworth's Interpretation of Nature" was given by Professor Ernest de Selincourt last night to the jubilee conference of the Parents' National Educational Union at Ambleside. Lord Alastair Graham presided.

Yorkshire Post

Change Court, Albion Street, Leeds.

Cutting from issue dated.....18 APR 1936.....

HOUSE OF EDUCATION

Jubilee Celebrations at Ambleside

The Lakeland centre of Ambleside was visited yesterday by 600 parents, teachers and children from all parts of the country, who are taking part in the Jubilee celebrations of the Parents' National Educational Union at the House of Education.

This form of educational training was introduced by the late Miss Charlotte Mason 30 years ago, and differs entirely from that of other training colleges. The building comprises a practising school, where children are taught up to advanced students, and quarters for senior students. The students, after attaining the necessary qualifications, go out as governesses and mistresses in secondary schools.

The system was devised to introduce some of the advantages of school training into home education. The principles applied and the methods used have proved as valuable in schools as in home teaching, and now there are 40,000 children following the programmes in schools all over the world.

The House of Education is known as the school where learning is pleasure. The hours are short. There is no preparation. The scholars are free to enjoy hobbies in the afternoons, and there is no cramming for term examinations. Questions are set to find out what students know rather than what they do not know.

Gloucester Journal

St. John's Lane, Gloucester.

Cutting from issue dated.....18 APR 1936.....

HARESFIELD CHILDREN AT AMBLESIDE

Demonstrations at Jubilee Conference

Twelve children from Haresfield Church of England School yesterday (Friday) made the journey to Ambleside, where they had been invited to give a demonstration of pipe music and dramatic work at a conference of teachers and children in connection with the Jubilee of the Parents' National Educational Union. The children left Haresfield in charge of the Headmaster (Mr. Vivian Handley) and Miss R. Davis, and they will not return until Thursday.

They are being accommodated by Mr. Bell, of Round Hill Farm, on the Kerfoot Estate, Westonsland, and they are taking their own provisions. Ten of the teachers who are attending have volunteered to a fund from which they have had £2 6s. 4d. for the Haresfield children's railway fare.

Parents and friends of the children have given previous and some of money to help them out, and the cost of the outing has almost been entirely defrayed by the village. The conference will include dancing, concert singing, social gatherings, pipe solos, games, excursions to local beauty and historic spots, debates, and a children's Church. The parents' part, in fact, is represents a pleasant week's educational outing. Several discussion meetings for the adults have also been arranged.

North Mail & Newcastle Chronicle

Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Cutting from issue dated.....22 APR 1936.....

LET THEM TALK

AMBLESIDE ADVICE ON TEACHING CHILDREN

Lord Alastair Graham was yesterday unanimously elected President of the Parents' National Educational Union, whose jubilee conference is being held at Ambleside this week.

Lord Graham succeeds Dalhousie, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, who remains honorary president.

During yesterday's session Miss Harrison, a former student of the House of Education, where teachers are trained in Parents' National Educational Union methods, explained the system for educating young children.

She said that all children should be allowed to talk of their work during lessons. Children of six years learned more at that age in proportion than in any other years.

North Mail & Newcastle Chronicle

300 PARENTS LABELLED WITH NAMES

CONFERENCE WAY TO FRIENDSHIP

SCHOOL TRIBUTE AT AMBLESIDE

To avoid the necessity of introductions, 300 adult delegates from all parts of the world, who are attending the jubilee conference of Parents' National Educational Union, at Ambleside, are all labelled with their names.

This is the biggest conference ever held at Ambleside, and delegates, with students and children, number nearly 700. Hotels and boarding houses in the town and district are filled.

The main object of the conference is to honour the memory of Miss Charlotte Mason, who founded her unique system of education 30 years ago, and who was the first principal of Scale House Teachers' Training College, Ambleside.

CHURCH PARADE

Children, representing many countries of the world, joined in procession to church on Saturday and after service, marched by the grave of the founder.

Adjoining the College is Fairfield Practising School, where young students are taught by seniors, under the guidance of the staff. Scholars regard lessons as a pleasure, for hours are short, there is no prep and afternoons are free for hobbies.

Lady Helen Cassel presided at Saturday's conference, when methods of teaching in Parents' Union's schools were explained by Miss E. Cholmondeley, the Principal of Scale House.

She said their teaching methods depended first and last upon Miss Mason's teaching. With regard to knowledge, the mind received knowledge not in order that it might know but in order that it might grow. Young and old alike, growing persons need direction, control and above all, food.

Liverpool Daily Post

46/54 Victoria Street, Liverpool.

Cutting from issue dated.....22 APR 1936.....

Lord Alastair Graham was yesterday unanimously elected president of the Parents' National Educational Union, whose jubilee conference is being held at Ambleside. He succeeds Dalhousie, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, who will be hon. president.

Daily Dispatch

Withy Grove, Manchester.

Cutting from issue dated.....22 APR 1936.....

AS SEEN BY SONNY

Lord Alastair Graham, who was elected president of the Parents' National Educational Union at Ambleside yesterday, recalled an incident to show the indignity to which a parent might be subjected in watching the growth of his child's knowledge.

Some years ago his eldest son, having more or less mastered the rudiments of reading and writing, chalked on newly-painted farm buildings "Not fat, daddy."

Yorkshire Post

Change Court, Albion Street, Leeds

Cutting from issue dated.....

PARENTS' UNION FOUNDER

Memory Honoured By World Delegates

To avoid the necessity of introductions, 300 adult delegates from all parts of the world who are attending the Jubilee Conference of the Parents' Educational Union, at Ambleside, are all labelled with their respective names.

This is the biggest conference ever held at Ambleside, and the delegates, with students and children, number nearly 700.

The main object of the Conference is to honour the memory of Miss Charlotte Mason, who founded this unique system of education fifty years ago, and who was first Principal of the Scale How Teachers' Training College, Ambleside.

On Saturday children representing many countries of the world joined in a procession to church, and after service marched by the grave of the founder.

Adjoining the College is the Fairfield Practising School, where young students are taught. The scholars regard the learning as great joy and pleasure, for the hours are short, there is no "prep.", and afternoons are free for hobbies.

Lady Helen Cassel presided at Saturday's Conference, when methods of teaching in the Parents' Union's schools were explained by Miss E. Cholmondeley, the Principal of Scale How. She said their teaching methods depended first and last upon Miss Mason's teaching with regard to knowledge. The mind received knowledge not in order that it might know but in order that it might grow. Young and old alike, growing persons all needed direction and control, and above all food.



With happy remembrances of our Jubilee Festival at Ambleside, 1936.

From Isabel Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, President with Lady Alastair Graham, from the time of its inception in 1886, by personal invitation of its Founder, Miss Charlotte Mason.

Daily Mirror

Geraldine House, Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, E.C.4.

Cutting from issue dated.....

18 APR 1936

Learning a Pleasure at This School

Ambleside, in Lakeland, was "invaded" yesterday afternoon by 650 parents, teachers, students and children who are taking part in the jubilee celebrations of the Parents' National Educational Union at the House of Education. The House of Education is known as the school where learning is a pleasure. The hours are short, there is no "prep.", scholars are free to enjoy their hobbies in the afternoon, and there is no cramming for the term's examinations. The questions are set to find out what they know, rather than what they do not know.

Leeds Mercury

Bond Street, Leeds 8 APR 1936

Cutting from issue dated.....

HOUSE OF EDUCATION.

Lakeside School Where Hours Are Short.

From Our Own Correspondent.

AMBLESIDE, Friday. This delightful centre of Lakeland was invaded this afternoon by six hundred and fifty parents, teachers and children from all parts of the country who are taking part in the jubilee celebrations of the Parents' National Educational Union at the House of Education.

The House of Education is known as a school where learning is a pleasure, hours are short, there is no "prep.", scholars are free to enjoy hobbies in the afternoon and there is no cramming for examinations. Questions are set to find out what they know rather than what they do not know.

The celebrations began to-night when Isabel Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair (president) welcomed members of the conference. The proceedings will continue for five days, and visitors will enjoy expeditions and mountain walks, socials, discussions and lectures.

Distinguished visitors include Lady Maureen Stanley, Lady Cotteloe, Lord Alastair Graham and Professor G. Selincourt.

Liverpool Daily Post

46/54 Victoria Street, Liverpool.

Cutting from issue dated.....

18 APR 1936

AN EDUCATIONAL JUBILEE

SYSTEM THAT IS USED BY OVER 650 SCHOOLS

Isabel Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, president of the Parents' National Educational Union, welcomed 418 members at the opening meeting of the jubilee gathering in connection with the union at Scale How College, Ambleside, last night.

She read a message that she had sent to the King from the 418 members and 268 children from many parts, reinforcing their loyal greetings. She also read the King's reply, thanking her cordially and expressing much appreciation of the good wishes of the gathering.

The system of education evolved by the founder and first principal of the college, Miss Charlotte M. Mason, in 1886, it is stated, is used by 402 public elementary schools and 252 public and private secondary schools throughout the world.

Students training at present at the college come from Germany, France, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, India, Ceylon, Trinidad, and Switzerland.

p13cmc 270

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Schools—Colleges
Home Study

*Confirma
Pke.*

In the Home Schoolroom

Charlotte Mason's Work
Still a Dynamic Force

Special to The Christian Science Monitor

THE recent Jubilee celebrations at Ambleside testify to the continued application of the principles upon which Charlotte Mason founded her system of education fifty years ago. It is impossible, indeed, to gauge the results of her work, for the influence of her thought and practice has reached far beyond the Parents' National Educational Union itself, and many of the ideas which she formulated are an accepted part of present-day educational theory. Since Miss Mason took up her life work on behalf of children, there has been a growing recognition on all sides of the need for more freedom and liberality in education. It is hard to realize, for instance, that nature study, scouting, musical appreciation, now found as part of the curriculum in many schools of Great Britain, but pre-eminently in P. N. E. U. schools, were unknown in English schools of her time.

In 1886 Miss Mason published her first book, "Home Education," which was based upon a series of lectures she had given to parents and teachers in Bradford. There the first group of loyal friends, attracted by the new ideas and inspired by Miss Mason's enthusiasm, formed the Parents' Educational Union—as it was called at first. This was an association of parents, the first of its kind, who, in spite of their individual viewpoints, were united in their desire to give their children a better type of education. Membership in the Union is not confined to parents but is open to all who are interested in education.

The P. N. E. U. was formed in 1887, and in 1893 The Parents' Review appeared, a monthly periodical, devoted to the furtherance of her ideas, which Miss Mason continued to edit until her passing in 1923. In 1892, came the Parents' Union School, consisting, at first, of children in home

schoolrooms or small classes. Soon, however, schools began to join the movement, private schools, and later government schools, both elementary and secondary. At the same time the training college for those who wished to teach by these methods was developing. The House of Education started in Ambleside in 1892 with four students, but Miss Mason lived to see her college established there in its own building and grounds, which now has accommodation for 60 students, 30 finishing each year. Attached to the college is a practicing school, where there are children of all ages.

This was the first college in Great Britain to offer a course of training for home teaching. It helped to rescue children from the haphazard and often quite inefficient methods then all too common, and also did much to raise the status of governesses in this country.

What are the distinctive features of the P. N. E. U. method? A system which insists upon the use of good books, which has no homework or cramming for examinations, where the pupils do the talking, "narrating" it is called, and the teachers play a relatively silent part—this much is generally known. It is becoming recognized, too, that P. N. E. U. children love their lessons, learn easily for the most part, and remember what they learn—a challenging fact to be faced by other educational systems.

Children taught in the P. N. E. U. are usually intelligent, self-reliant, with a wide knowledge of books, and many and varied interests and occupations. They love to learn—and at

examination times to "tell what they know," which they do with quite amazing powers of expression. Those who teach them share in this joy, and under this method there is no drudgery of teaching. In many cases mothers teach their own children successfully and happily for years. How is all this brought about?

Miss Mason started out with the unshakable conviction that children must have direct contact with vital ideas if they are to live and grow in knowledge, and that this contact can only come from the world's great thinkers and writers as expressed in their books, and not as interpreted by the teacher. She found, too, that children learn best from books written in literary language. However young the child, the books he has to study are chosen with as much regard for their literary style as for their content. From this comes the P. N. E. U. emphasis upon good books, and the conviction that children of all ages can and do appreciate great literature.

Using such books, Miss Mason found that children use their natural powers of attention in a way that makes learning a joyous adventure, and removes the necessity for any artificial stimulus, such as marks, places or prizes. She trusted the irresistible attraction of vital ideas to furnish all the stimulus that could be needed, opening up to the children fields of knowledge and delight in beauty.

"Education is an atmosphere, a discipline, a life," wrote Miss Mason, "not a process of amassing sufficient information to pass some final examination, not even the preparation for some particular career, but nothing less than the development of life." Character training, she believed, cannot be separated from true education, and in character training, as she conceived it, the variety of subjects studied plays a definite part.

The Parents' Union School is a correspondence school composed of thousands of children scattered all over the world. The programs of work and lists of books go out to the children every term, and are sent back to headquarters at the end of each term. The P. N. E. U. program is a boon to the mother teaching her own children, especially the mother abroad, for it answers such questions as, "Is my child up to standard for his age? Am I expecting too much of him—or too little? My memory of schooldays is hazy, the modern methods are so entirely different, what and how shall

I teach that he may not be handicapped when he goes to school?"

Children in home schoolrooms are graded in Forms according to age ability. Home-taught children, who later enter P. N. E. U. schools, continue their work without a break. Those who wish to do so are able to take public examinations with a little extra preparation, and without the cramming usually thought necessary.

Although the P. N. E. U. started in the home, its methods are just as applicable to schools, and today schools of all kinds are found working under its auspices. There is a group of recognized P. N. E. U. schools, at home and abroad, many of them staffed by trained students from the House of Education, as well as many other schools where the programs are used and Miss Mason's methods followed as far as possible. In 1916 P. N. E. U. methods were for the first time introduced into a public elementary school—the system of state education in Great Britain. The result of this experiment fully justified Miss Mason's claim that her principles could be applied to every kind of child without distinction of class or creed, that they are, indeed, the path to "a liberal education for all." It was found that children of the working classes, with no cultural background and often a most limited environment, showed the same eager joy in their work, and the same ability to appreciate and understand the books presented to them as other children in better surroundings. The splendid results in these state schools led more and more of them to adopt these methods, and today, of the 650 schools working in the P. N. E. U. 402 are public elementary schools.

All her life Miss Mason had been interested in children and in im-

mate touch with them. She herself took the only training for teachers then available, the Bishop Otter College course for elementary school teachers, and taught and lectured for many years while the work that was to be distinctively hers was taking shape in her thought. Thus the principles she enunciates came to her as profound convictions, borne out by her experience during those years of constant contact with children of all kinds. The whole movement owes its inspiration and its development to her untiring labors, yet she desired no recognition for herself. Of the outcome of her work she was serenely confident. Like all great thinkers she had a profound faith in the enduring vitality of the ideas which she gave so unsparringly to the world.